

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3178

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize dental insurance for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2008

Mr. BURR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize dental insurance for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DENTAL INSURANCE FOR VETERANS AND SUR-**
4 **VIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.**

5 (a) DENTAL INSURANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subchapter
6 II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
7 ed by inserting after section 1712B the following new sec-
8 tion:

1 **“§ 1712C. Dental insurance: veterans; certain sur-**
 2 **vivors and dependents of veterans**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a
 4 dental insurance plan for the veterans and survivors and
 5 dependents of veterans described in subsection (b).

6 “(b) COVERED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DE-
 7 PENDENTS.—The veterans and survivors and dependents
 8 of veterans described in this subsection are as follows:

9 “(1) Any veteran who is enrolled in the system
 10 of annual patient enrollment under section 1705 of
 11 this title.

12 “(2) Any survivor or dependent of a veteran
 13 who is eligible for medical care under section 1781
 14 of this title.

15 “(c) BENEFITS.—The dental insurance plan under
 16 this section shall provide such benefits for dental care and
 17 treatment as the Secretary considers appropriate for the
 18 dental insurance plan, including diagnostic services, pre-
 19 ventative services, endodontics and other restorative serv-
 20 ices, surgical services, and emergency services.

21 “(d) ENROLLMENT.—(1) Enrollment in the dental
 22 insurance plan under this section shall be voluntary.

23 “(2) Enrollment in the dental insurance plan shall
 24 be for such minimum period as the Secretary shall pre-
 25 scribe for purposes of this section.

1 “(e) PREMIUMS.—(1) Premiums for coverage under
2 the dental insurance plan under this section shall be in
3 such amount or amounts as the Secretary shall prescribe
4 for purposes of this section.

5 “(2) The Secretary shall adjust the premiums pay-
6 able under this section for coverage under the dental in-
7 surance plan on an annual basis. Each individual covered
8 by the dental insurance plan at the time of such an adjust-
9 ment shall be notified (by writing or by electronic mail)
10 of the amount and effective date of such adjustment.

11 “(3) Each individual covered by the dental insurance
12 plan shall pay the entire premium for coverage under the
13 dental insurance plan.

14 “(f) VOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT.—(1) With re-
15 spect to enrollment in the dental insurance plan under this
16 section, the Secretary shall—

17 “(A) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an
18 individual in the dental insurance plan if the
19 disenrollment occurs during the 30-day period begin-
20 ning on the date of the enrollment of the individual
21 in the dental insurance plan; and

22 “(B) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an
23 individual in the dental insurance plan for such cir-
24 cumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe for pur-
25 poses of this subsection, but only to the extent such

1 disenrollment does not jeopardize the fiscal integrity
2 of the dental insurance plan.

3 “(2) The circumstances prescribed under paragraph
4 (1)(B) shall include the following:

5 “(A) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-
6 surance plan relocates to a location outside the juris-
7 diction of the dental insurance plan that prevents
8 utilization of the benefits under the dental insurance
9 plan.

10 “(B) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-
11 surance plan is prevented by a serious medical con-
12 dition from being able to obtain benefits under the
13 dental insurance plan.

14 “(C) Such other circumstances as the Secretary
15 shall prescribe for purposes of this subsection.

16 “(3) The Secretary shall establish procedures for de-
17 terminations on the permissibility of voluntary
18 disenrollments under paragraph (1)(B). Such procedures
19 shall ensure timely determinations on the permissibility of
20 such disenrollments.

21 “(g) RELATIONSHIP TO DENTAL CARE PROVIDED BY
22 SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section shall affect the re-
23 sponsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under
24 section 1712 of this title and the participation of an indi-
25 vidual in the dental insurance plan under this section shall

1 not affect the individual's entitlement to outpatient dental
2 services and treatment, and related dental appliances,
3 under that section.

4 “(h) REGULATIONS.—The dental insurance plan
5 under this section shall be administered under such regu-
6 lations as the Secretary shall prescribe.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended
9 by inserting after the item relating to section 1712B the
10 following new item:

“1712C. Dental insurance: veterans; certain survivors and dependents of vet-
erans.”.

